

REMARKS

Claims 10-26 are pending in this application, with Claims 10-16, 23, and 24 being withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Of the remaining claims, Claims 17, 22, 25, and 26 are independent. Claims 17-22 have been amended, and Claims 25 and 26 have been added, herein.

In view of the amendments above and the remarks below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Claims 17-20 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,557,325 (Ueda). Claims 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ueda in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,729,363 (Aihara). These rejections are respectfully traversed. Nonetheless, to advance prosecution, Applicants have amended Claims 17-22 to even more clearly recite their patentable combination of features.

The invention, as recited in amended independent Claim 17, relates to an image processing apparatus. The apparatus includes first and second input units, an indicator, an extractor, a setter, and a processor. The first input unit is arranged to input an image signal. The indicator is manipulated by user, and is arranged to indicate an arbitrary position of an image displayed on a screen from the image signal. The second input unit is arranged to input position information of the position indicated by the indicator, and the image data in the position. The extractor is arranged to extract image data in the position corresponding to the position information from the image signal. The setter is arranged to set an image processing parameter on the basis of the image data extracted by the extractor

and the image data input by the second input unit. The processor is arranged to perform image processing on the image signal by using the image processing parameter.

The invention, as recited in amended independent Claim 22, relates to an image processing method. The method of Claim 22 includes steps performing functions that parallel the operation of the components of the apparatus recited in Claim 17.

Newly added independent Claim 25 relates to a computer program code for an image processing method including the steps recited for the image processing method of Claim 22. Likewise, newly added independent Claim 26 relates to a computer program product stored on a computer-readable medium including computer program code for an image processing method. That method includes the steps recited for the method of Claim 22.

Thus, with the features of Applicants' invention, the user indicates an arbitrary position of an image displayed on a screen from the image signal. For example, image position indicating unit 124, illustrated in Figure 16, and discussed at page 53, line 22-page 54, line 2 of the specification, indicates an image position of the image sensing data to be extracted by the image sensing data extracting unit 122, also illustrated in Figure 16. The image data in the position corresponding to the position indicated by the user is extracted from the image signal. An image processing parameter is set based on the extracted image data and the input image data, and the image signal is processed using the image processing parameter. With the features recited in the independent claims, an image processing parameter may be set in correspondence with image data in an arbitrary position of an image displayed on the screen from an input image signal.

Applicants submit that neither Ueda nor Aihara, taken singly or in combination, teach or suggest the features recited in Applicants' independent claims. Specifically, Ueda, directed to a video camera including an extracting circuit, discloses AWB processing. For example, AWB processing circuit 7, shown in Figure 2, performs AWB processing using position information and range information provided by microprocessor 9. (Ueda, Column 3, lines 32-43.) Applicants submit, however, that Ueda does not teach or suggest an indicator manipulated by user, arranged to indicate an arbitrary position of an image displayed on a screen from the image signal. Likewise, Applicants submit that Ueda does not teach or suggest a step of inputting, from a user, an indication of an arbitrary position of an image displayed on a screen from the image signal.

Aihara, directed to an image parameter recording apparatus, was cited in the Official Action in rejecting dependent Claim 21, as suggesting that one of ordinary skill in the art would see more advantages for the imaging processing system, and identify more options for processing the image data. Applicants submit, however, that Aihara does not teach or suggest the features recited in Applicants' independent claims, including the feature of inputting, from a user, an indication of an arbitrary position of an image displayed on a screen from the image signal.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the independent claims are patentably distinguishable over Ueda, alone or in combination with Aihara.

In addition, Applicants submit that the dependent claims are patentably distinguishable from the cited art for at least the reasons discussed above for Claim 17. Applicants further submit that the dependent claims recite additional features further

distinguishing them from the cited art, and respectfully request individual consideration of each dependent claim.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C., office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants

Anne M. Maher

Registration No. 38,231

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

AMM/agn